

THE PACIFIC.
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WALTER G. SMITH : : : : : EDITOR.

SATURDAY

APRIL 14.

HIGH LICENSE VS. PROHIBITION.

It is possible, we think, to pass a high license act with the local option features of the present law if the temperance people will join in the work. Decent liquor men are in favor of high license and not against such local option as we have. It may be said, of course, that temperance people do not relish the association; but the real question is not who supports the measure, but what good would it do to pass it? Would it cut down the number of man-traps? Would it lessen the temptations to young men? Would it, by closing the low dens and leaving the business in the hands of its most trustworthy managers, diminish drunkenness and therefore crime? If so, would not high license be a good thing for Hawaii?

We have had high license here before. Saloons were then very few in Honolulu and elsewhere in the group. There were none in small country places. Not a saloon existed on the waterfront of this city nor in the residence districts. Owing to the danger of losing a high-priced license the law was scrupulously observed as respects the time of closing, selling to minors, etc. True, there were a good many illicit stills and "blind pigs" but that was before the engineering of the United States revenue laws was in full operation. We can now ask the Federal government to suppress illicit stills and as for the "blind pigs," if the people choose to elect a trustworthy sheriff, there will be little trouble over them.

All this, as our prohibitionist friends take pains to point out, is amelioration, not suppression. But so are the laws against crime. They do not suppress. But it is surely a good thing to diminish the volume of murder and robbery even if the law has not been able to stop such crimes altogether. Yet one may always handle crime by law more easily than vice, especially the vices of the appetite. Hence if crime cannot be suppressed with the hand of every decent man against it, how may the sale and consumption of liquor be stopped, with decent men divided in opinion as to the wisdom of that course? What the prohibitionists ask for is an ideal condition which cannot be had and which may only be approximated in any city where public opinion amply and sternly supports it. Here there is no such public opinion. Is there a seaport outside of Maine or a tropical city in the world, where prohibition could rally to its side ten per cent. of the population? And if it were possible to create a public sentiment in favor of prohibition, could it not be done easier, even in Honolulu, with the influence of only thirty saloons to contend with rather than 300?

Senator Dickey, who does not favor an attempt to get prohibition, suggests that the Anti-Saloon League cannot support anything less and remain consistent. In that case the course of the Anti-Saloon League might easily be such as to perpetuate the base conditions we now have. That is to say, if high license is defeated for lack of proper support, the existing state of things will probably continue. Can the Anti-Saloon League afford to take any share in a responsibility such as that? If it cannot stand for a measure of amelioration would it not be wise to disband for a while and leave each member to follow his good sense untrammelled by a cast-iron constitution and by laws that commit him against a reasonable measure of reform?

THE REFUNDING BILL.

The House Committee on Territories has made a report on the refunding bill which is quite as favorable as it would have been if written by the Hawaiian delegates themselves. The argument made for Hawaii by its business representatives is simply re-stated in the report and our own original requests are fully embodied except as to the time-limit upon the proposed law which, with the previous assent of our delegates, has been reduced from twenty years to five.

While the report does not signify the final passage of the refunding measure, it goes a long way to help and it proves good work on the part of the delegates. The unanswerableness of their plea is strongly affirmed by a competent tribunal. The rest lies with the Senate committee, the vote of both houses and the action of a conference committee. As for Presidential sanction that is, of course, assured by the advocacy, in Mr. Roosevelt's last message, of the refunding plan.

Even if the measure should fail, the interest excited in Congress by Hawaii's needs and the information given that body about conditions here should help in other ways.

It is to be hoped there is some mistake in the report that Mr. Marsden is going to Porto Rico for laborers. This island community has had all the Porto Ricans it wants and several more. As a last resort they might do for a make-shift, but if there is a chance to get Portuguese it should be exhausted before any more degenerate blacks of Porto Rico are added to our mixed population.

There is that in the word "squawk" which arouses the Star to madness. It can't even hear its own machine go round without catching the same hydrophobia that afflicts other listeners.

One industry creates another. Now that pineapple land is producing well, a factory to make cans is starting up. Perhaps a glass factory will follow some day.

The Star prints a touching plea for Brown signed "Old Voter." As to who wrote it, opinion is divided between Alex Nicholas and Charley Moore.

The bad showing of the Oceanic S. S. Co. will be a godsend to the line if it induces Congress to pass the subsidy bill.

MANY COLLECTORS CROWD
TO SEE HAWAIIAN STAMPS

The Call says:

About thirty of the best known stamp collectors of San Francisco gathered at the residence of Henry J. Crocker on Wednesday evening to view his collection of Hawaiian stamps, which ranks as the finest in the world in point of rarity and value, and which he is about to send for exhibition in the third International Philatelic Exhibition, to be held in the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, London, England, beginning May 23. It is safe to say that it will bring to its owner on returning the first gold or silver medal. The collection has already won first medals at several philatelic displays in America and Europe. The Prince of Wales is the patron of the London exhibition, which will be supported by the philatelic societies of the world. Mr. Crocker is a member of the committee, in company with many collectors of world-wide note.

COLLECTION WORTH \$42,000.

This display of Hawaiian stamps, which is a part of Mr. Crocker's collection of general stamps, which ranks as seventh in the noteworthy collections of the universe, is catalogued at \$42,000, and when consigned to the care of the express company for its long voyage will carry an insurance of \$30,000. The gem among the Hawaiian copies, and over which every guest lingered almost lovingly, is the early 2-cent missionary stamp of 1851, which occupies the place of honor under glass in the initial page of the first book of the exhibit. Of this particular stamp, which Mr. Crocker bought for \$2750, and which Mr. Crocker bought to purchase for two or three years before finally securing it, only two copies

are known, the other appearing in the Tappin collection in the British Museum. It is now valued at about \$4000, and, apart from the unique 1-cent British Guiana of 1856, which exists only in the collection of Ferrari of Paris, is probably the rarest stamp in the world. It is also interesting from the fact that the day after its issue the Hawaiian postoffice burned down. Another stamp in the exhibit has the honor of being the only one of the sort in the United States. It is the 1-cent Hawaiian, which is valuable among the error stamps in that it is without the "1-cent" at the bottom. The only other known stamp like this is in Hawaii.

EARLY MISSIONARY STAMPS. There is also in the Crocker collection a set of all the error stamps of the Provisional Government, worth over \$100 each. Among other rarities are a strip of three 5-cent ultramarines, imperforated horizontally, worth \$300; a 2-cent black numeral tete beche and a 6-cent green of 1864, imperforated in pair.

Other stamps dear to the heart of the collector are ten of the early 5 and 13 cent missionaries, a strip of three 15-cent missionaries, being unique, and especially interesting in sequence and arrangement are eleven complete plates of the Hawaiian numerals, now exceedingly rare. A number of the missionary stamps appear on the original letters on which they were sent and range in value from \$1000 to \$1500 each. There are some fine ones among the surcharged issues. Mr. Crocker is the recognized authority on the stamps of the Hawaiian Islands, having written several important articles on the plating of

the numerals. Altogether the collection is one that will give the collectors of the world a rare treat when seen at the London exhibition.

THE SALVATION ARMY.

Meetings every night at eight o'clock. In the hall, corner of King and Nuuanu streets.

Sunday services: Holiness meeting at 10:30 a. m.; Sunday school and Bible class at 3 p. m.; Young People's Legion meeting at 6 p. m.; salvation meeting at 8 p. m. The brass and string bands will play, and there will be plenty of music and singing.

Monday night, Rev. W. D. Westervelt will give a stereopticon lecture on "The Island of Hawaii." Everybody is cordially invited to attend. Adjutant and Mrs. Bamberg and Captain Shipp in charge.

THREAT TO SELL
OCEANIC TO JAPAN

(Associated Press Cablegrams—Afternoon Service.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13.—Former Representative Loud appeared today before the House Committee that is holding a hearing on the ship subsidy bill passed by the Senate. Loud said that the Spreckels line, from San Francisco to Australia, touching at Honolulu, was under operation at a loss. He says it will be abandoned and the ships transferred to the Japanese unless the ship subsidy bill is passed by Congress.

The ships of this line include the Sierra, Sonoma and Ventura. The Alameda runs to Honolulu and the Mariposa to Tahiti.

MUST GO TO JAIL.

SAVANNAH, Ga., April 13.—Greene and Gaynor, convicted of conspiracy and embezzlement in connection with Government contracts, have been fined \$75,000 and sentenced to five and four years each in prison.

WELCOME TO SMITH.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 13.—A big reception was given Vice Governor Smith of the Philippines on his arrival here today.

NAVAL OFFICER DEAD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13.—Captain Kennedy of the cruiser Colorado is dead from appendicitis.

GENERAL ALGER'S
PARTNER WAS HERE

Mr. Lyzianski, a capitalist of Chicago, who has been a guest at the Alexander Young Hotel with his daughter for the last ten days, departed for his home yesterday on the steamship China. Mr. Lyzianski is a former business associate of Senator Russell A. Alger, of Michigan. They were engaged in the lumber business. In this way Mr. Lyzianski came in close touch with officials and he was given a number of letters of introduction by them to Federal officers here.

"This is really one of the greatest places I have ever visited," said Mr. Lyzianski on the deck of the China yesterday. "He was all enthusiasm over Honolulu. I am coming back here next winter to stay longer. Why, this is a delightful country, so much to see and enjoy, and the climate is grand. My daughter and I have found Honolulu a most hospitable place and to a stranger that is everything. You've got a pretty good lot of federal officials down here too—Breckons, Stackable, Hendry, and others and they've been good to us."

"The Young Hotel is a wonder and it is well managed. That has been one of the delights of our visit to find such a modern hotel."

CHINESE PIRATES
ROB MISSIONARIES

HONGKONG, April 7.—Chinese pirates on April 3 held up three passenger boats fourteen miles from San-shui, not far from Canton, and robbed the Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hager, an American missionary.

In an interview here today Dr. Hager said:

"Our boat and two others were anchored off a village on the Lung river, when they were simultaneously attacked at night, by forty pirates, armed with Mauser rifles. They fired at us and narrowly missed me. The boats were riddled with bullets. I was divested of my clothes, cash and surgical instruments. I have reported the matter to the American Consul at Canton."

Dr. Hager and his wife, Mrs. Marie V. R. Hager, reside in Hongkong. They are Congregationalists and under the orders of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

The Emperor of Japan has asked for permission to decorate the American army officers who served with the Japanese army in the late war. The request has been conveyed to both Houses of Congress by Secretary Root.

Dr. Schafer of Berlin, who was with the Russian army in Manchuria, says that the wounds inflicted by the Japanese rifle were not serious. Within three months after the battle of Mukden, half the wounded of one army corps were cured.

Captain F. Wagner, second mate of the British ship Claverdon, now at Seattle, says that "blackbirding" is still carried on in the South Sea Islands. The natives are taken to Samoa to labor on the copra plantations.

The gunboat Pinzon is cruising off Barcelona to prevent the landing of arms for Carlists.

Mrs. Roosevelt and children are in Havana.

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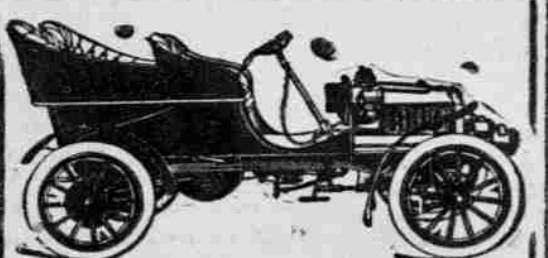
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